

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thursday, October 11. 1795.

THE Words of Job are almost ended.

The High Churchmen with a little more Patience may go on, they will be but little more troubled with the Impertinence of this Monitor; I shall leave them to tell me hereafter, how happy it had been for them to have taken the Hint, and Complied with the Council of this Despicable Scribler, as perhaps they account him.

I have now the least, tho' perhaps the most Difficult, and most Hazardous part of my Work to go thro': However, be it as it will, the Work is of so much more Consequence, than the good of its Author, that I think the last ought not to stand in Competition.

Wherefore, Gentlemen, listen a little longer to an Oracle you never heard before, a certain Gentleman was once pleased to take Notice of my Desiring you not to be surprized at the Substance of a Paper that was coming out, and when it appeared, there was *nothing in it but Peace*——Why really

Gentlemen, to Talk of Peace, to Exhort to Peace, when Men are all Biting and Devouring one another, might seem something Surprizing; and I gave the Caution not for fear of a Fright to the Sences, but that when this Apparition appear'd, you might all be prepared, and not believe it a Spectre, a Vapour, or a Jest, and a Banter; but a Serious Substantial thing, propos'd in Earnest Zeal for the Publick Advantage.

I have pursued this Design with the same Earnestness and Honesty of Principle, that I began it, and have had one very particular Testimony of its Operation, *viz.* The Rage, and Terrible Malice of the Party, who Declaring themselves my Mortal Enemies, pursue me with all the Little Revengeful Unmanly Methods of Personal Eury imaginable, expect to Ruine me, and 'tis very likely they may.

I am not going to move the Compassion of any Body, by telling the Ungrateful Particulars; how the Unhappy Author of this

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Paper is Treated ; how his Life is Threatened by Bullying Letters ; his Creditors roused to a general Prosecution upon him for Debts, tho' under former Treaties and Agreements ; as if he was more able to Discharge himself, now reduc'd by a known Disaster, and Ruin'd by a Publick Storm on his Family, than before ; when in prosperous Circumstances, he was Gradually clearing himself of every Body, and all waited with Patience, and show'd themselves satisfied ; how his Morals are assaulted by Impotent and Groundless Slanders, his Principle cried down by Envious Friends, as well as Malicious Enemies ; his Endeavours for the Publick Advantage thus prove none to himself ; his Family and Fortunes sink under his Constant Attempts for his Countries Advantage — And all this for INVITING YOU TO PEACE, for telling you what sort of People Obstruct it, and for answering the Impudent Attempts of the Nations Enemies to break and Divide us.

Well, Gentlemen, as I Desir'd you not to be Surpriz'd at the Subject, so I must Desire you once more not to be Surpriz'd at the Manner, nor at the Persons : I have hitherto directed the Exhortations of Peace, to the People of *England* in General ; I have laid before them such Arguments, as I thought moving, and particularly suitable to the Genius of the Time, and of the Persons Writing, and have endeavoured, in my plain way, to open the Eyes of the Freeholders of *England*, and to see who, and who not, they ought to fix their Thoughts and Voices upon, for their Representatives in Parliament ; and in this, I have the Satisfaction of hearing my Friends say, I have done some Service, as well as to have my Enemies testify it by their Resentments.

I have been a long Journey into the Country, chiefly indeed to be out of the Reach of Implacable and Unreasonable Men ; which may serve for an Answer to an Impertinent Villifier, who in Print, had the Impudence to Demand *what Business I had in Devonshire*.

In all my Perambulation, my constant Endeavour, my whole Discourse has been *like my Writing*, nothing but Peace ; Entreating and Persuading all Men, of what Persuasion, and of what Opinion soever, to lay

aside their Party-Prejudices, to Bury former Animosities, to remember they are all *Protestants*, all *English Men*, Embark'd in the same Vessel, Environ'd and Attack'd by the same Enemies, that have no Friends, but one another to stand by them ; that have the same Religious Interests, and the same Civil Interest to pursue, the same God, and the same Government ; and whose Ruine, if ever it comes, will be brought to pass by the same Methods.

I frankly appeal for the Truth of this, to all the several Towns and Counties I have gone thro', in near 1100 Miles Riding ; I have made no private Gain, I have been raising no Contributions, as another Author has been busie about ; I have Dispers'd no Libels, as Mr. Justice S——d says his Informer alledg'd ; I have poisoned no Bodies Principles with any thing but the Infection of Peace. I have indeed carried the *Memorial* with me, and on all occasions have shown it, as a thing which carries its own Evidence along with it ; and which, as I have often said, I think wants nothing to move the People of *England* to a suitable Abhorrence of it, but to have it be seen.

I can testify, that the Principles Discovered in that Book, have in all Places that I have shown it in, opened the Eyes of the People to an Equal Detestation of it, with the Grand Jury at the *Old Bailey* ; not a Man, but without the help of Spectacles, can see there the Church of *England* dress'd up like a *Merry Andrew* to be Laught at, represented a *la mode de Cimiser*, with the Sword in her Hand against her Sovereign ; and in short, personated to Principles which her Soul abhors ; they can see there the Queen Abus'd, the Moderation Her Majesty practises, even to these High Churchmen themselves, Trampled on and Despised ; the Lenity, the Gentle Soft Methods taken, with her Enemies Treated with Horrid Insults and Reproaches ; and this, I must tell these Gentlemen for their Caution, fills the Country with Indignation at their Principles ; and when ever they dare show themselves in their Colours, I must tell them, it will appear at their Persons, and they would do well to consider, that about the Time, when they find, *Nature a going to rebel against Principle* ; for certainly, that Book has done more

to rouse the Nation, to treat them as they deserve, than all the Declarations the Government could have put out, in Vindication of their Proceedings; *but of this by the way.*

And indeed, I cannot but add one thing here, that in the Circle I have made in this Nation I have observ'd, and which I speak for the proper Use of these Eastern parts of the Nation; That I find, that blessed Article of Peace, and Union, much farther advanc'd, the People of all Sorts, as well Church as Dissenters, living in more Neighbourhood and Society; their Clergy going on hand in hand, in the Heavenly Work of doing good to Souls; and more like Christians, and Men, conversing with one another, than can be easily seen in these Parts; *O how happy would it be, were that Temper begun here!*

Let who will take this for a Scandal upon them, I do not; to me it presages, at least discovers the Possibility of that blessed healing Temper, which shall reign in the Heads and Hearts of, all Catholick Christians; when God for the compleating the Happiness of these Kingdoms, shall be pleas'd to bless us all, with that Peace at Home, which all good Men pray for.

Among many useful Observations, which, I think, I have brought with me from the Country, these are some.

1. That the dispersing Pamphlets, wrangling Papers, News-Letters, with Scandalous Reflections, Rehearsals, &c. Ay, and, if they will too, even Observators and Reviews; *so far as any of them prompt the People to any thing but Peace*; and so far as they excite Discontents at the Government, on any Account whatsoever, are exceeding pernicious to the Publick Good; and let no Man wonder that this Paper is found at the Close of this Subject; earnestly moving the Authority, who only can do it; either to regulate or entirely suppress it, in which I shall yet give a farther Testimony of my real Design in the Pursuit of this Paper.

2. That the Diligence of those unhappy People, who industriously hand about these Papers, such as Dyer's Letter, the Rehearsal, Memorial, and the like, is very admirable, and extraordinary; the Collections and Contributions they raise for such as are

their Champions in Print, to encourage them to oppose the Nations Peace, and Insult the Government, are very great and considerable; and no wonder they are serv'd at all Hazards, while they that will venture to arm the People with Arguments, to defend themselves against these *Turners of the World Upside down*, do it at their own Hazard and Expence, to the Ruine of their Families, and exposing their Persons to all Manner of Indignities and Reproaches.

3. I have observ'd a very remarkable Difference between the Persons, wherever I have been, who are for Peace and Moderation, and those who are against it; in all Places 'tis easie to be seen, that generally speaking, The Men of *Sence*, the Men of *Manners*, the Men of *Piety*, and the Men that have *most to loose*, are the Men of Peace; these Listen to the Invitations of the Queen, and are moved at the Pressing Persuasions of the Royal Eloquence; these give this Paper a soft Reception, and receive its Author with Decency and Respect.

The Loose-headed, the Drunken, the Lewd, the Dissolute, the Immoral, the Ravenous, the Haughty, the Ignorant, the Idle, the Conceited, the Dull, the Dogmatick, and the Bigott; these added very Unhappily to a too strong Party of the Inferiour Clergy, and of the Gentry led away by the said Clergy, are the Maintainers of this Unhappy Temper; these and their Rabble, whom they possess with Notions, ridiculous as themselves, are the Firebrands of this Nation, the Enemies to its Peace, and the Destroyers of the Church.

When this Paper comes among these, 'tis curs'd *without Bell, Book, and Candle*; many times it is throwa into the Fire, *instead of its Author*; who in the mean time, has such a Character given him, and so suited to the Temper of the Givers, that truly when I shew'd my self in some Places, and the People knew who it was, they began to look for the *Cloven Foot*, the *Heads*, and the *Horns*, and all the Demonstrations of *Devilism*, which our Common People have learn'd from the Painters, Old Women, and the like; and I have had the Honour, with small Difficulty, of Convincing some Gentlemen

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over a Bottle of Wine, That the Author of the *Review*, was really no Monster, but a Converſible Sociable Creature.

Farther I obſerved, that in thoſe Towns in *England*, where the Strife of Parties is abated, and the People Converſe together without Heat or Prejudice, where the Moderation and Temper of the Government has Influenc'd the People, and where their Eyes are open to the General Good of the Kingdom, their Trade flouriſhes, Commerce revives, and the People begin to live happy; they feel the Effects of it in the Bleſſed and Conſtant Attendant of Peace; if by the Caſualty of the War, their Manufactures are obſtruded, and they are pinch'd in their Trade by the General Calamity, they bear it with the more Chearfulneſs, and there are always the leſs Clamours; they help and encourage one another, and live like Chriſtians, as well as like Men; and why we might not live ſo every where, I ſee no reaſon to be given, but what the Gentlemen of the High Church ought to Bluſh for; and what, without Arrogance, I may ſafely ſay, they themſelves are the Occaſion of.

I have made many more Obſervations of like fort, and which in Time, the World may ſee, *but not here*, other Work lying before me.

And now I come to my Text again, and to Deſire my Readers not to be ſurprized, if with a Confidence in the Truth and Weight of what I have to ſay, from a Heart fir'd with an Unbyaſs'd Diſinterreſted Zeal for the Peace of this Nation, and fearleſs of all the Perſonal Perils, which may Enſue; I ſeriouſly ſet my ſelf to Conclude this Work, by ſaying ſome things no Man ever durſt ſay before me; and ſaying it to thoſe to whom no Man but my ſelf would ſpeak in this manner before; if I preſume to Exhort thoſe, who ſew *will Venture to Exhort*, and to Act the Part of a Man, reſolved for the Publick Good to ſpeak boldly all Manner of *Needful Truth*; let no Man be afraid for me, I ſhall ſpeak to Men whoſe Candor and Charity will Expound me fairly, whoſe Treatment of me, will at leaſt be *Legal*; Men who dare do Juſtice, when they Reſent, much more when they Approve; I ſhall ſpeak to Men that Underſtand and will

hear; and to Men, to whom if I err, either in Subſtance or Manner, I ſhall never be Afraid or Aſham'd to ſubmit.

Above all, I ſhall ſay nothing but what all Honeſt Men will approve, both in the Reaſonableneſs and Neceſſity of it; And what can I have to fear?

Laſtly, I ſhall ſay nothing, but I will be always ready to Appear to, Juſtify, and Chearfully Suffer for; if that Power ſhould, to this Nations Miſery, prevail, and that Unhappy Time ſhould return, when I can be made a Criminal again for ſpeaking the Truth.

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